

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of activating an organic coating to enhance adhesion of the coating to a further coating and/or to other entities comprising applying an organic solvent selected from ester based solvents, ketones, alcohols, ethers, amides, aromatics and halogenated solvents and an adhesion promoter selected from linear and branched polyethylene imines (PEI); amine, epoxy, isocyanate and/or hydroxyl terminated polyether glycols; dendrimers; low molecular weight amines; epoxysilicones; glycidylethers; aziridines and acids or combinations thereof to a surface of the organic coating, wherein contact of the organic coating with the solvent or the solvent and adhesion promoter combination results in swelling of the organic coating.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the adhesion promoter is a compound having at least one functional group.
3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 2, in which the adhesion promoter is a compound having two or more functional groups which are of the same or different functionality.
4. (Previously Amended) A method according to claim 2, in which the functional group is nucleophilic.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, in which the functional group is selected from amine, alcohol, carboxylic

acid, amine, ester, thiol, ether, epoxy, isocyanate, isothiocyanate and anhydride groups.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, in which the functional group is an amine and/or alcohol group.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 7₁, in which the amine, epoxy, isocyanate and/or hydroxyl terminated polyether glycols are selected from polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol and polyethylene oxide.

9. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 7₁, in which the dendrimers are selected from polypropylene imine octamine dendrimer and polypropylene imine tetraamine dendrimer.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7₁, in which the low molecular weight amines are selected from ethylene diamine, diethylene tetraamine, triethylene tetraamine (TETA), tetraethylene pentamine, pentaethylene hexamine, piperazine, aminoethylpiperazine, 1,4-bis(3-aminopropyl)piperazine, N,N'-bis(3-aminopropyl)ethylenediamine, 4,9-dioxa-1,12-dodecanediamine, 2,2'-(ethyleneoxy)bis(ethylamine), 4,7,10-trioxatridecane-1,13-diamine (TODA), 4,7-dioxadecane-1,10-diamine (DODA), polyetheramine T 403, N,N-bis (3-aminopropyl)-ethylene diamine, 3-2(2-aminoethyl)aminopropyl amine, dipropyltriamine and 4,4'diamino-dicyclohexylamine.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, in which the low molecular weight amines are selected from TODA and DODA.

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 71, in which the glycidylethers are selected from trimethanolpropane triglycidylether and polyethylene glycol

digycidyl ethers.

14. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 71, in which the aziridine is trimethylolpropanetris (3-aziridino propionate).

15. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 71, in which the acid is polyethylene glycoldicarboxylic acid.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, in which the adhesion promoter has a molecular weight less than about 100,000.

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16, in which the adhesion promoter has a molecular weight less than about 10,000.

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, in which two or more adhesion promoters are present.

19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, in which high and low molecular weight adhesion promoters are present.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, in which the high and low molecular weight adhesion promoters are high and low molecular weight polyether glycols.

21. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 20, in which the high and low molecular weight polyether glycols are 4,9-

dioxa-1, 12-dodecane diamine and polypropylene glycol, respectively.

22. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, in which the adhesive~~on~~ promoter is a combination of aminosilane and epoxy compounds; 4, 7, 10-trioxatridecene-1, 13-diamine and epoxy silanes; aziridines and trimethylolpropanetris (3-aziridino propionate); aziridine and acids; or aziridine and glycols.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the adhesive~~on~~ promoter is present in an amount more than about 0.01% based on the total weight of the combination of solvent and adhesion promoter.

24. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the adhesion promoter is present in an amount of about 1% to about 50% based on the total weight of the combination of solvent and adhesion promoter.

25. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the solvent is an organic solvent.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 261, in which the solvent is selected from ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, tertiary butyl acetate, glycoether acetates based on ethyleneglycol and propylene glycol repeat units, methyl amyl ketone, methyl isoamyl ketone, benzyl alcohol, isopropylalcohol, glycoldiethers, N-methyl pyrrolidinone, dichloromethane and dichloroethylene.

28. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method according to claim 261, in which the solvent is a combination of N-methyl

pyrrolidinone and ethyl acetate; dichloromethane and benzyl alcohol; ethyl acetate and benzyl alcohol; ethyl acetate and diglycol ether dimethyl ether; or isopropylalcohol and ethoxyethyleacetate.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the solvent is present in an amount less than about 99.9% based on the total weight of the combination of solvent and adhesion promoter.

30. (Original) A method according to claim 29, in which the solvent is present in an amount of about 50 to about 99.9% based on the total weight of the combination of solvent and adhesion promoter.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which an additive is also applied to the organic coating.

32. (Original) A method according to claim 31, in which the additive is selected from rheology modifiers, film formers, wetting agents, surfactants, dispersants, substrate cling agents, anti-foaming agents, anti-corrosion reagents, stabilizers, leveling agents, pigments and dyes.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 31, in which the additive is present in an amount of less than about 10% based on the total weight of the combination of solvent, adhesion promoter and additive.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the solvent, and adhesion promoter and additive are applied either simultaneously, sequentially or separately.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the solvent, and adhesion promoter and additive are

applied simultaneously in the form of an activation treatment.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the solvent, and adhesion promoter and additive are applied via a spray, brush, dip, knife, blade, hose, roller, wipe, curtain, flood, flow, mist, pipette or combinations thereof.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the organic coating is a polyurethane, epoxy, polyester, polycarbonate and/or acrylic coating.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the other entities are selected from adhesives, sealants, pressure sensitive decals and logos.

39. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which excess solvent and/or adhesion promoter is removed by solvent or water rinsing; dry, water or solvent wiping; air or gas knife; vacuum application; squeegee; and/or natural or forced convection evaporation.

40. (Currently Amended) A coated substrate having an activated organic coating, wherein the adhesion of the activated coating to a further coating and/or other entities has been enhanced by application of a solvent selected from ester based solvents, ketones, alcohols, ethers, amides, aromatics and halogenated solvents and an adhesion promoter selected from linear and branched polyethylene imines (PEI); amine, epoxy, isocyanate and/or hydroxyl terminated polyether glycols; dendrimers; low molecular weight amines; epoxysilicones; glycidylethers; aziridines and acids or combinations thereof to the surface of the activated coating such that contact of the organic coating with the solvent or

the solvent and adhesion promoter combination results in swelling of the organic coating.

41. (Original) A coated substrate according to claim 40, in which the substrate is a metal, composite or a material containing plastics, glass, wood or fabric.

42. (Currently Amended) An activation treatment for an organic coating to enhance adhesion of the coating to a further coating and/or other entities comprising an adhesion promoter selected from linear and branched polyethylene imines (PEI); amine, epoxy, isocyanate and/or hydroxyl terminated polyether glycols; dendrimers; low molecular weight amines; epoxysilicones; glycidylethers; aziridines and acids or combinations thereof and a solvent selected from ester based solvents, ketones, alcohols, ethers, amides, aromatics and halogenated solvents, wherein contact of the organic coating with the solvent or the solvent and adhesion promoter combination results in swelling of the organic coating.

43. (Original) A method for the preparation of the activation treatment according to claim 42, comprising the step of mixing the solvent with the adhesion promoter.

44. (New) A method according to claim 31, in which the solvent, adhesion promoter and additive are applied either simultaneously, sequentially or separately.

45. (New) A method according to claim 31, in which the solvent, adhesion promoter and additive are applied simultaneously in the form of an activation treatment.